

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 TRSE-00 EUR-25

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 /060 R

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R 281910Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SREF:HK

SUBJECT: ICEM REFUGEE LOAN FUND - CHINESE REFUGEES

REF: GENEVA 1184

GENEVA FOR RMRC

HONG KONG FOR RMU

1. FOLLOWING ARE DEPT. VIEWS ON ICEM REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LOANS FOR INLAND TRAVEL TO EAST COAST, AND EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY TO NEEDY REFUGEES ENTERING THE U.S. OTHER THAN BY CONDITIONAL ENTRY.

2. INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, WE OF COURSE WISH TO ACCORD CHINESE REFUGEES BENEFITS EQUAL TO THOSE ACCORDED USRP ELIGIBLES.

3. SINCE AT PRESENT ICEM TRAVEL LOANS TO USRP ELIGIBLES ARE TO PORT OF ENTRY ONLY, BELIEVE SAME LIMITATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR CHINESE REFUGEES. TO EXTEND FOR BOTH WOULD BE A COSTLY NEW UNDERTAKING FOR WHICH  
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FUNDS NOT REPEAT NOT NOW AVAILABLE.

4. IF ICEM TRAVEL LOANS ISSUED TO NEEDY USRP ELIGIBLES INCLUDE PERSONS GRANTED IMMIGRANT VISAS, WE AGREE SAME BENEFITS SHOULD APPLY TO CHINESE. GENEVA PLEASE ADVISE. TO

DETERMINE ADDITIONAL COST AND WHETHER FUNDS AVAILABLE, WE NEED RMU'S BEST ESTIMATE AS TO ADDITIONAL NUMBERS EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY WOULD INVOLVE.

5. WE NOTE THAT IN 1973 ONLY 217 CHINESE REFUGEES UTILIZED LOANS (AT SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 200 DOLS. EACH), OR 8 PERCENT OF 2,600 APPROVED FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY IN 1973. APPROXIMATELY 12,300 IMMIGRANT VISAS WERE ISSUED BY CONGEN HONG KONG IN 1973, OF WHICH UNDETERMINED NUMBER MIGHT HAVE QUALIFIED ALSO FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY.

6. WE SUGGEST CRITERIA TO DETERMINE REFUGEE STATUS FOR PURPOSE TRAVEL LOAN ELIGIBILITY WHICH VOLAGS MIGHT UTILIZE WOULD BE GENERALLY SAME CRITERIA INS APPLIES FOR 7TH PREFERENCE INCLUDING SEVEN YEARS OR LESS RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG (EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE REFUGEE WITH LONGER RESIDENCE HAS CLEARLY NOT BECOME FIRMLY RESETTLED). NEED WOULD BE EVALUATED AS PRESENTLY FOR 7TH PREFERENCE TRAVELLERS. WE BELIEVE MOST REFUGEES IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE ARE ALREADY IN CONTACT WITH VOLAGS, WHETHER THEY SUBSEQUENTLY PROCEED TO CONDITIONAL ENTRY OR VISA PROCESSING, AND HANDLING OF THEIR TRAVEL LOAN APPLICATIONS MIGHT NOT BE A MAJOR ADDITION TO VOLAG WORKLOAD. RMU PLEASE COMMENT. CASEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE040228  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ORM:HBSHISHKIN:CML  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN ORM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** GENEVA 1184  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ICEM REFUGEE LOAN FUND - CHINESE REFUGEES  
**TAGS:** SREF, HK  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005